



New Hampshire Veterans Home

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Photos attached and captions provided below)

New Hampshire Veterans Home Hosts Winnisquam Regional School to Work Program for a Groundhog Job Shadow Day

TILTON, NH – February 3, 2006 – The New Hampshire Veterans Home (“NHVH”) recently hosted several students from the Winnisquam Regional School to Work Program for a Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Students spent time one-on-one with NHVH employees and were provided with the opportunity to observe daily activities and to ask questions about career preparation and work environment. Students were paired, on the basis of their current career interests, with employees from various departments including business, dietary, facility services, human resources, nursing, recreation and social services. Staff members enjoyed the opportunity to share their experiences with the students and to offer information about both post-secondary education and specialized career training.

Student Paul Schaffer who was “shadowing” Social Worker Nancy Dutile had the unique opportunity to interact and ask questions of Seth Wilson, a student intern at NHVH who is currently completing his bachelor of social work degree at Plymouth State University.

“The perspectives of both a current undergraduate student and a practicing professional assist the students in learning about the educational requirements as well as the day to day reality of the careers that they are exploring”, explained Gary Steinbach, School to Work Coordinator.

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Staff member Sue Woods, R.N., who was paired with Elisha Marsh, emphasized the wide array of opportunities and work settings available in the nursing profession. Elisha asked questions of several nurses who work with Sue on the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit and learned about the educational requirements for different nursing positions.

At the conclusion of the half day Groundhog Job Shadow session, the students agreed that they had learned valuable information, enjoyed interacting with staff and residents, and looked forward to returning to NHVH for additional career exploration.

The following student/staff teams participated in the Job Shadow Day activities: Andrea Austin/Darlene Smith, LNA; Patrick Giunta/Nancy Nolin, Business Office; Eric Greenwood/John Bossey and Garry Naughton, Facility Services; Dan Holway/Mary Ann Wareing, Dietician; Kyle Kimball/Lynn Hilbrunner, Food Services; Adam LaPierre/Sandy Valtz, RN, Infection Control; Elisha Marsh/Sue Woods, RN; Josh Morrill/Beth Benz, Recreation; Rachel Mutney/Mindy Normand, Human Resources; and Paul Schaffer/Nancy Dutile, Social Services.

Photos / Captions follow:



New Hampshire Veterans Home staff members enjoyed the opportunity to participate in and assist with the career explorations of several local students during the Winnisquam Regional School to Work Program for Groundhog Job Shadow Day.



Winnisquam Regional High School student Elisha Marsh welcomed the opportunity to explore the nursing profession by shadowing Sue Woods, RN who cares for Residents who reside on the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit of the New Hampshire Veterans Home.



New Hampshire Veterans Home staff member Darlene Smith, LNA provided Andrea Austin with an overview of the training involved in becoming a licensed nursing assistant as well as the responsibilities and rewards of her chosen career in healthcare. Wesley Philbrick, a Korean War veteran, enjoyed sharing his perspective as a Resident and welcomed the student visitors.

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About the New Hampshire Veterans Home

The New Hampshire Veterans Home (“NHVH”) was initially established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier’s Home for Civil War Veterans. Today, the modern facility in its countryside setting is home to men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens. The mission of NHVH is to provide high quality, professional long-term care services to the Granite State’s elderly and disabled veterans. NHVH is the only long-term care provider in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

As a professional health care provider, NHVH offers a full range of services including residential, medical/dental and nursing care as well as physical/occupational therapy, recreation, and dietary and social services. Chapel services, exercise groups, arts and crafts, shopping trips, live entertainment and

various community outings support residents' quality of life. NHVH also offers inter-generational programs and animal-assisted recreational therapy.

Dedicated staff members work in partnership with volunteers from surrounding communities and numerous veteran service organizations to enrich our residents' lives. NHVH recently opened the 100-person Life Enhancement Dementia Unit to serve the long-term care needs of veterans who suffer from Alzheimer's and other related memory impairment disorders. The facility addition will enable NHVH to provide comprehensive long-term care services to a total of 250 Residents.

Additional information is available online at our website www.nh.gov/veterans

About the Winnisquam Regional School to Work Program

The Winnisquam Regional School to Work Program is committed to preparing all students with the skills, abilities and knowledge necessary to make well-informed decisions concerning their education and their career choices. The program is based on five key components: building and sustaining local partnerships; creating work-based learning opportunities; developing high academic and occupational standards; developing seamless articulation between secondary and post-secondary education; and supporting students with effective career guidance. For additional information about the Winnisquam School to Work Initiative, contact Gary Steinbach, M.Ed., School to Work Coordinator at (603) 286-4531, ext. 228.

About the National Job Shadow Coalition

The National Job Shadow Coalition encourages young people across the country to explore their futures through career awareness and mentoring opportunities. Formed in 1998, the Coalition includes America's Promise, Junior Achievement, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor.

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